

two-thirds vote of all members of the House of Delegates registered at the meeting, failed by a few votes of the required number.

These same amendments drew more than the required two-thirds vote at the 1963 meeting.

Thus the Board of Trustees now numbers 15 voting members and lists the Speaker and Vice-Speaker as ex-officio members without the right to vote.

Five of California's delegates were honored by appointment on reference committees of the House of Delegates, one as chairman. All members of the delegation were kept busy attending reference committee meetings and working toward the accomplishments of the goals of the delegation for the meeting. They were cheered by the election of Doctor Norman A. Welch of Boston as President-Elect, Doctor Milford O. Rouse of Dallas as Speaker of the House and Doctor Donovan Ward of Dubuque, Iowa, as Vice-President.

The House of Delegates also took a number of actions on questions, including compensation of interns and residents, election of section representatives in the scientific sections rather than by appointment, establishment of an institute for biomedical research, initiation of an A.M.A. pension program under Keogh Law provisions, and the use of tobacco. On the last-named, the House of Delegates approved a report calling for instruction of young persons on the physical effects of toxins, including tobacco. The report was noteworthy in avoiding any cause-and-effect reflections.

Full reports on the actions of the A.M.A. at this meeting will be reported in detail in the *Journal A.M.A.* and members are urged to follow them in that medium.

In brief, the 112th annual meeting of the American Medical Association was smooth, productive and satisfying to the bulk of the state representatives present, including those from California.

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## Reporting Drug Dangers

AN HONORED THEOREM in medicine is that all useful drugs are also dangerous. Physicians have to be constantly alert for untoward reactions to any drug they prescribe, observing not only their own patients but scanning the literature for reports by investigators in all branches of medical practice and research.

CALIFORNIA MEDICINE, as a unit in that reporting system, has from time to time printed articles or other material containing warning notes with regard to one drug or another. A notable example is the editorial on chloramphenicol which was written by Dr. Ralph O. Wallerstein and published in the September 1962 issue. In future it will print ap-

propriate notes of warning that are to be prepared as occasion warrants by the Committee on Dangerous Drugs and the Committee on Scientific Information of the Scientific Board.

A more elaborate, more comprehensive service of the same order is being developed by the American Medical Association. Its new Central Registry of Reactions to Drugs and Chemicals has been established to receive reports of adverse drug reactions from all available sources, including individual physicians. The Registry will evaluate the reports and inform the medical profession promptly of potential dangers.

It is just such information services as these that the California Senate in April of this year recommended be formally organized within the structure of the medical profession. (See page 73.)

The recommendation is one with which we can and do enthusiastically cooperate.

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## Dr. Blain's Influence

IN THE FEW YEARS he served as Director of California's Department of Mental Hygiene, Doctor Daniel Blain by persuasion and exertion of influence did a great service to the mentally ill, to their relatives, to the private practice of medicine, to the people of the state at large and to the cause of humanity.

This he did by prosecution of the thesis that in general the mentally ill get well faster and return to useful occupation sooner if they can be treated in hospitals close to home than if they are sent to remote institutions. Doctor Blain recognized the value of not interrupting the care of such persons by the physicians who normally would treat them and he appreciated the morale factor of keeping a patient in his own community, conveniently among the people whose visits are likely to help restore him to health.

At a time when decisions had to be made between more and bigger state institutions and the provision of care for the mentally ill in their own neighborhood by their own physicians, Doctor Blain did much to swing the choice toward the latter.

Not long before he resigned his post for personal reasons, Doctor Blain made a report to the Council of the California Medical Association which makes interesting and most heartening reading. (See page 70.)

The medical profession in California regrets the departure of this able, energetic man from the service of our state. It at once wishes him well and expresses its pleasure in the appointment of his assistant, Doctor Daniel Lieberman, whose views accord with those of his former chief, to the vitally important post of Director of the Department of Mental Hygiene.